Gibbes, L. D. —— Fossil jaw of a mammoth. (1882).

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Fossil Jaw of a Mammoth.

BY C. D. GIBBES, C. E., OCTOBER 2, 1882.

When at the State Prison at Carson in July last, Maj. Garrard stated that he understood that a part of a mammoth jaw found there previous to his taking charge, had been given to Mr. J. D. Minor Secretary of State, and that he would try and find out what had become of it.

On the 1st of September I received a note from Miss Kate Garrard (who takes a great interest in the foot-prints, and keeps me advised of any discoveries), stating that her father had received a letter from Mr. Minor, saying that when he left Carson his cabinet of minerals together with the jaw, had been sold to Mr. Wells, a Methodist minister living in Napa. I then wrote to Mr. Wells to know if he would present or loan it to the Academy, and in answer he said that he had given it to the University of the Pacific near San Jose, and that it was the jaw found at the State Prison.

I then asked Mr. Harford as Director of the Museum, to write to the University and request the loan of it, which he did, and received an answer from Mr. T. C. George, Professor of Natural History, complying with our request, and we received the specimen about ten days since, which we exhibit this evening You will see that it is only a portion of the right side of the lower jaw, and that half of the tooth is broken off, evidently by the workmen, and that a piece of the sandstone still adheres to the jaw next to the tooth; it appears to me to be either a grinder of the *Elephas Americanus* or *Elephas intermedius*, and not the *Elephas primigenius*.

It will be seen that the cylinders of enamel-covered dentine standing vertical to the grinding surface, consists of only six groups left on the fragment of this tooth, and that the space occupied by the substance called cementum, by which all of the groups are cemented together is much wider than the space between the groups of the *primigenius*, and that this tooth corresponds more with the teeth of the *Elephas Americanus* or the *Elephas intermedius*. But I leave it for others better able to decide to which species it belongs.

We have here for your inspection three specimens belonging to the Academy, for comparison; one is the lower jaw of an *Elephas primigenius* from Alaska; one, a tooth of the *Elephas Americanus* from this State, and a cast of a tooth of the *Elephas intermedius*, found in France.

In the specimen from the State Prison, the porous portion of the jaw bone is filled with small brown crystals of calcite, and in a cavity in the

under part of the jaw the crystals are about half an inch in diameter. This jaw and tooth is whiter and better preserved than any specimen we have. Mr. Taber has kindly photographed the jaw for us, half the natural size, and presents one to the Academy and one to accompany my report. Mr. Harford is going to have a mould made of the jaw, so as to obtain a cast for our collection and for other parties.

I give this short statement of the manner in which we have obtained this specimen in order to identify it as the jaw found in the State Prison quarry.

With this report is a drawing representing the natural size of the fragment of the grinding surface of this tooth. The widest portion of the fractured part of the tooth is 3½ inches. [This drawing is in the Academy, but is not figured with the printed report.] This jaw was found on the west side of prison yard where the tusk was found.

New Discovery of Fossil Bird Tracks at the State Prison Quarry, Carson, Nev.

In the last week in August Miss Kate Garrard wrote to inform me that since I left, some more bird tracks had been found on the west side of the Prison yard. I wrote and requested Maj. Garrard to let my assistant take the impression of them on canvas, as we had taken the other tracks. Maj. Garrard complied with my request, and now presents to the Academy 17 yards of canvas containing 79 foot-prints of four-toed birds.

The middle toe measures five inches, the hind toe nearly two inches, the spread of foot nine inches, and the step from 21 to 23 inches.

LITH. BRITTON & REY, S.F.

FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY TABER.

Fragment of Mammoth Jaw,
(HALF SIZE.)
FOUND IN QUARRY, CARSON, NEVADA.

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